

IN THE CLAIMS

The following listing of the claims replaces all previous listings and versions:

1. (Currently Amended) A personal information providing system for providing personal information regarding ~~on~~ a user through the Internet, comprising:

a personal information storer configured to store identifying information for a recipient of an electronic mail sent by the user;

a provider for providing the personal information regarding ~~on~~ the user only to a ~~one or more~~ requesters with whom the user has communicated by electronic mail.

2. (Currently Amended) A personal information providing system, comprising a user terminal and a personal information server, for providing personal information regarding ~~on~~ a user through the Internet, wherein

said user terminal comprises:

personal information transmission means for transmitting the personal information ~~on~~ regarding the user to the personal information server;

electronic mail transmission means for allowing said user to create and transmit an electronic mail;

recipient information generation means for transmitting to the personal information server recipient information for ~~on~~ a recipient ~~based on~~ of the electronic mail transmitted from said user;

electronic mail reception means for allowing said user to receive ~~the~~ electronic mail; and

personal information acquisition means for allowing the user when the user a
recipient who has been received -receives an electronic mail to request, from said personal
information server, personal information on regarding the a sender of the electronic mail
received by the user, for acquiring the personal information on the sender -from said personal
information server, and for displaying the acquired personal information, and wherein

said personal information server comprises:

personal information registration means for receiving the personal
information ~~on~~ regarding said user from said user terminal, and for registering the received
personal information with a personal information file;

empowering means for receiving recipient information from said user terminal
and for empowering the recipient who is described in said recipient information to refer to the
personal information ~~on~~ regarding said user; and

personal information providing means for transmitting the personal information
~~on regarding~~ said user to said recipient if said recipient requesting the personal information ~~on~~
regarding said user is empowered to refer to the personal information ~~on regarding~~ said user.

3. (Original) A personal information providing system according to claim 2,
wherein

said user terminal further comprises means for generating cancellation
information describing information on a person being forbidden, and for transmitting the
generated cancellation information to said personal information server;

said personal information server further comprises means for receiving said cancellation information, and for canceling power of a person described in said cancellation information to refer to the personal information on said user.

4. (Currently Amended) The personal information providing system according to claim 2,

wherein said recipient information generation means is provided with a exclusion file for registering at least an electronic mail address of a recipient for whom recipient information shall not be generated, and

wherein said recipient information generation means ~~does not generate~~ omits generation of said recipient information if the mail address of the recipient of said transmitted electronic mail is included in said exclusion file.

5. (Currently Amended) A ~~The~~ personal information providing method for providing personal information ~~on~~ regarding a user through the Internet, comprising ~~a step of:~~ storing identifying information for a recipient of an electronic mail sent by the user;

providing the personal information data ~~on~~ regarding the user only to ~~a one or more~~ requesters with whom the user has communicated by electronic mail.

6. (Currently Amended) A personal information providing method for providing personal information ~~on~~ regarding a user through the Internet, comprising ~~the steps of:~~

making the user register the personal information with a personal information server;^{3,5}

transmitting an electronic mail created by said user to a recipient;⁵

generating recipient information identifying ~~describing~~ information on the recipient ~~based on~~ of said transmitted electronic mail;⁵

transmitting the generated recipient information to said personal information server;⁵

making said personal information server receive said recipient information, and empowering the recipient ~~described~~ identified by ~~in~~ said recipient information to refer to the personal information ~~on~~ regarding said user;

~~making the recipient of the electronic mail transmitted from said user receive said electronic mail;~~

making said recipient request said personal information server to transmit the personal information ~~on~~ regarding said user; and

making said personal information server examine whether said recipient is empowered to refer to the personal information ~~on~~ regarding said user, and transmit the personal information ~~on~~ regarding said user to the recipient if the recipient is empowered; and

~~making said recipient refer to the received personal information on said user.~~

7. (Currently Amended) The personal information providing method according to claim 6, further comprising ~~a step of~~:

making said personal information server cancel power of a person to refer to the personal information ~~on~~ regarding said user in response to a cancellation instruction from said user.

8. (Currently Amended) The personal information providing method according to claim 6, further comprising ~~a step of:~~

~~failing to generate said recipient information if~~ when the mail address of the recipient of said transmitted electronic mail is included in an exclusion file for registering at least an electronic mail address of a recipient for whom recipient information shall not be generated, omitting generation of said recipient information.